[House Bill No. 311.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Dec. 30, 1864.—Read first and second times; to be printed.

[By Mr. Norton, Committee on Military Affairs.]

A BILL

To provide additional Clothing and Privileges to Troops in the Field.

Whereas the armies of the Confederate States of America, unawed by the powerful combinations of our enemies, or the fearful depreciation of the national currency, continue to present an instance of lofty patriotism and self-sacrificing fidelity, unexampled in the history of wars: and whereas it is the duty of this government to extend to all its actual defenders alike every respect and consideration, and to provide them with every personal comfort not incompatible with the interests of the public service: Therefore,

Section 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates of the confederate armies in the field, exclusive of reserves, details, and those absent without leave, shall be provided each with one complete suit of uniform clothing, *to be presented* them by the government, in addition to their present pay and allowances, as an expression of the gratitude of the nation for

their gallantry, their sacrifices and their unflinching devotion to the country.

SEC. 2. All officers and soldiers of the Confederate States armies, who volunteered previous to the passage of the conscription act, April 16th, 1862, and who have since been continuously in the army, except while absent on leave, or because of sickness or disability, or when detained by imprisonment, shall be entitled to wear, in consideration of their long service, such distinguishing mark or badge as the President or Secretary of War shall designate.